

Am



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/028,426	12/28/2001	Sang Chul Yoon	P21845.P06	4378
7055	7590	02/02/2005	EXAMINER	
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			CHEA, PHILIP J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2153	

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/028,426

Applicant(s)

YOON ET AL.

Examiner

Philip J Chea

Art Unit

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-11 have been examined.

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in 2001-43714 on 7/20/01. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 2001-43714 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because:

- Note Fig. 4 step S6, the YES and NO branches are not translated.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 2153

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claim 3, line 11 disclose "converting/processing data". It is unclear if the data processor is supposed to convert data, process data or both convert and process data. Examiner interprets "converting/processing data" as "processing data".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-7,9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Humpleman et al. (US 6,182,094).

As per claim 1, Humpleman et al. disclose a home appliance control system, as claimed, comprising:

- an external Internet network installed outside of a building (see column 20, lines 42-51, where outside of a building is considered outside the users home);
- an internal Internet network installed inside the building and connected to said external Internet network via networking equipment (see column 20, lines 42-51, where internal network is considered the users home network);
- a plurality of home appliances installed in the building (see Fig. 7);
- a computing device for setting respective private Internet protocol (IP) addresses of said home appliances such that said appliances are connected to said internal Internet

Art Unit: 2153

network on the basis of the set private IP addresses (see column 11, lines 35-47, where the computing device is considered the DHCP server generating a unique IP address to associated with the home device); and

- a plurality of communication modules installed respectively in said home appliances, each of said communication modules storing the private IP address of a corresponding one of said home appliances, set by said computing device (see column 11, lines 35-47, where sending the IP address to the home device implies there is storage in the home device to retrieve the IP address), and processing data transmitted and received between said internal Internet network and said corresponding home appliance appropriately to standards of said internal Internet network and said corresponding home appliance (see column 7, lines 25-35).

As per claim 2, Humpleman et al. further disclose a public IP address for enabling access from said external Internet network (see column 20, lines 32-51).

As per claim 3, Humpleman et al. further disclose that each of the communication modules include:

- a data storage unit for storing the set private IP address of said corresponding home appliance (see column 11, lines 35-47, where sending the IP address to the home device implies there is storage in the home device to retrieve the IP address);
- an interface storage unit for storing a user interface appropriate to a control and state observation of said corresponding home appliance having said private IP address stored in said data storage unit (see column 7, lines 4-12);
- and a data processor for converting/processing data transmitted and received between said internal Internet network and a main controller of said corresponding home appliance appropriately to standards of said internal Internet network and main controller (see column 7, lines 25-35).

Art Unit: 2153

As per claim 4, Humpleman et al. further disclose that said interface stored is configured to be sent to said computing device such that a user controls said corresponding home appliance through said computing device (see column 7, lines 45-62).

As per claim 5, Humpleman et al. further disclose that user interface includes a Java program executable in said computing device (see column 7, lines 4-23).

As per claim 6, Humpleman et al. further disclose that the user interface includes a Java program executable in a personal computer of the user when said user gains access to said computing device through said external Internet network (see column 20, lines 42-51, where the Java program is still present in the interface as in claim 5).

As per claim 7, Humpleman et al. disclose a method for controlling home appliances, comprising the steps of:

- installing a plurality of communication modules in the home appliances, respectively, each of said communication modules storing a set private IP address of a corresponding one of said home appliances and processing data transmitted and received between an internal Internet network of a building in which said home appliances are installed and said corresponding home appliance appropriately to standards of said internal Internet network and said corresponding home appliance (see column 11, lines 35-47, where sending the IP address to the home device implies there is storage in the home device to retrieve the IP address);
- setting the private IP addresses of said home appliances, respectively (see column 11, lines 35-47); and
- controlling each of said home appliances with the set private IP addresses through a user interface appropriate to the appliance control (see column 14, lines 40-46).

As per claim 9, Humpleman et al. further disclose

- connecting home appliances to internal Internet network if the private IP address of home appliances are set at step b) (see column 11, lines 13-24); and

Art Unit: 2153

- determining whether each of said home appliances has been connected to said internal Internet network (see column 11, lines 56-65).

As per claim 10, Humpleman et al. further disclose storing said user interface appropriate to the appliance control in each of said home appliances and sending the storing user interface to a user desiring the appliance control such that it is executed by the user (see column 7, lines 4-12).

As per claim 11, Humpleman et al. further disclose

- determining whether a private IP address in a home appliance inputted through user interface is the same as the set of private IP address of each home appliance (see columns 7 and 8, lines 63-67 and 1-4 and column 12, lines 12-21, where IP addresses are updated in the device list, ensuring the IP address is correct);
- transferring a user's control command inputted through said user interface to a specific one of said home appliances if the private IP address of said control information is the same as the set private IP address of the specific home appliance (see columns 7 and 8, lines 53-67 and 1-4); and
- controlling only said specific home appliance in response to the transferred control command (see column 5, lines 19, where appliance is considered the server and control command comes from client).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humpleman et al. as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Abrams et al. (US 6,587,739).

Art Unit: 2153

Although the system disclosed by Humpleman et al. shows substantial features of the claimed invention (discussed above), it fails to disclose if a user desires to gain access to a home appliance to control it, determining whether the user has a code valid to control the specific home appliance.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Humpleman et al., as evidenced by Abrams et al.

In an analogous art, Abrams et al. disclose controlling home appliances from a remote location where a user password is required to gain access to certain appliances (see column 11, lines 30-47).


Given the teaching of Abrams et al., a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Humpleman et al. by controlling access to an appliance by using a password, such as disclosed by Abrams et al., in order to regulate the use of certain appliances (see Abrams et al. column 11, lines 39-47).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Venkatraman; Chandrasekar et al. | US 6139177 A |
| Sharood; John N. et al. | US 6453687 B2 |

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip J Chea whose telephone number is 571-272-3951. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-4:30 (1st Friday Off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


GLENDON B. BURGESS
SUPERVISOR/ON THE EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Art Unit: 2153

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Philip J Chea
Examiner
Art Unit 2153

PJC 1/24/05